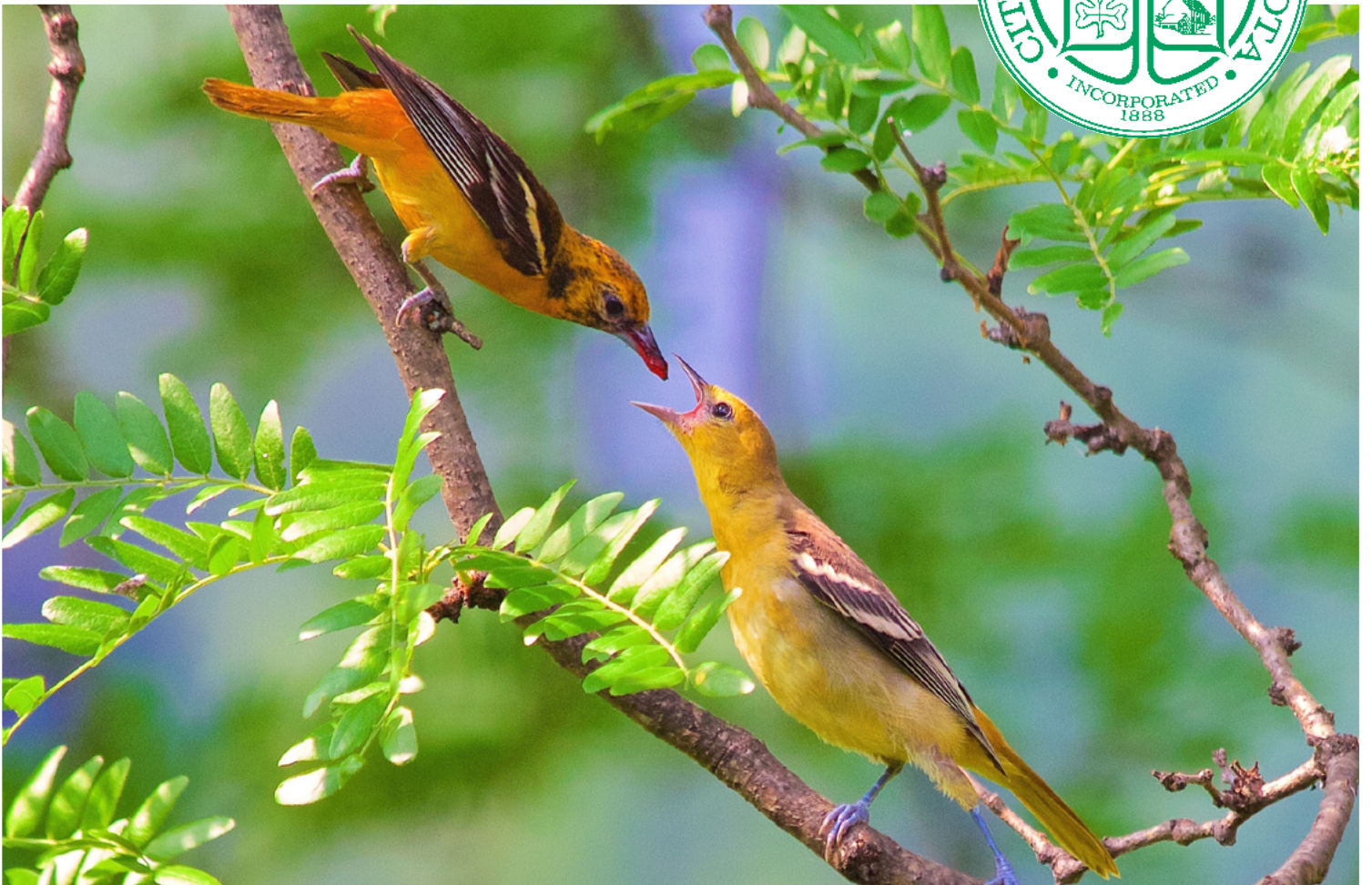


AboutTown

Official Magazine of the City of Edina



AboutTown

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informed of news, activities and programs that are
important to them. We include articles of interest about our
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Table Of Contents

Calendar Of Events	1
Spring Calendar Highlights.....	4
A Word From The Mayor	5
Wheaton Was Minnesota's First Black State Representative	6
Centennial Lakes Park Hosts Big Event With Little Boats.....	12
It's Not Only Neighborly ... It's The Law	14
Edina Aquatic Center Still Makes A Splash After 60 Seasons	16
Residents Plan for Future of Southdale Area	20
Call 911 If You Can, Text If You Can't.....	22
Council Recognizes Human Rights Essay Contest Winners	26
Climb Into Big Trucks At Public Works Open House.....	30
K-9 Memorial Nears Completion	32
Miles of New Trails Coming to Braemar Park.....	34
Pedestrian Bridges To Be Replaced At Centennial Lakes Park.....	38
Street Reconstruction Starts Soon in Edina	40
Planning Matters	44
Normandale Center For Healing & Wholeness Serves Aging Edina Residents.....	50
For City Council, Public Service Goes Far Beyond Meetings.....	52

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April 2018

About Town Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 "Images of Edina" photo contest opens for submissions.	3 7 p.m., City Council, Edina City Hall.	4	5 Noon, Wonderful World of Woody, Edinborough Park.	6	7
8 7 p.m., Southside Big Band, Edinborough Park.	9 6:30 p.m., Community Health Commission, Edina City Hall.	10 7 p.m., Heritage Preservation Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Parks & Recreation Commission, Edina City Hall.	11 4:30 p.m., Deadline for Heritage Preservation Award nominations. 7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.	12 Noon, Westwood Hills Nature Center, Edinborough Park. 7 p.m., Energy & Environment Commission, Edina City Hall.	13	14
15 7 p.m., St. Louis Park Community Band, Edinborough Park.	16	17 7 p.m., City Council, Edina City Hall.	18	19 Noon, Music with Kernsey, Edinborough Park. 6 p.m., Transportation Commission, Edina City Hall.	20 6:30 p.m., Princess Ball, Braemar Golf Course.	21 10 a.m., Barnyard Babies, Edinborough Park. 10 a.m.-Noon, Town Hall Meeting, Braemar Golf Course.
22 7 p.m., River City Jazz Orchestra, Edinborough Park.	23	24 7 p.m., Human Rights & Relations Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Roseville Big Band, Edinborough Park.	25 7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.	26 Noon, Wendy's Wiggle, Jiggle & Jam, Edinborough Park. 4:30 p.m., Arts & Culture Commission Edina Art Center.	27 10 a.m., Arbor Day Celebration, Garden Park. 6:30 p.m., Ice Frolics Figure Skating Show, Braemar Arena.	28 10:30 a.m., Superhero Saturday, Braemar Golf Course. 6:30 p.m., Ice Frolics Figure Skating Show, Braemar Arena.
29 7 p.m., The First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band, Edinborough Park.	30					

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About Town Calendar

May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7 p.m., City Council, Edina City Hall.	2	3 Noon, AlphaBits- Music, Edinborough Park. 4:30-7:30 p.m., Taste of Edina, The Westin Edina Galleria.	4	5
6 7 p.m., Minneapolis Brass, Edinborough Park.	7	8 7 p.m., Heritage Preservation Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Parks & Recreation Commission, Edina City Hall.	9 7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.	10 7:30 a.m., Housing & Redevelopment Authority, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Energy & Environment Commission, Edina City Hall.	11	12 Noon-4 p.m., Fix-It Clinic, Edina Senior Center.
13 7 p.m., North Winds Concert Band, Edinborough Park.	14 6:30 p.m., Community Health Commission, Edina City Hall.	15 7 p.m., City Council, Edina City Hall.	16	17 Noon, The Bazillions- Music, Edinborough Park. 6 p.m., Transportation Commission, Edina City Hall.	18	19 10 a.m-2 p.m., Open House, Public Works & Park Maintenance Facility. 10 a.m., Armed Forces Day Ceremony, Utley Park.
20 7 p.m., The First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band, Edinborough Park.	21 7 p.m., Fitness in the Park – yoga/strength/ conditioning, Arneson Acres.	22 4 p.m., K-9 Memorial Dedication, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Human Rights & Relations Commission, Edina City Hall.	23 7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.	24 7:30 a.m., Housing & Redevelopment Authority, Edina City Hall. 4:30 p.m., Arts & Culture Commission, Edina Art Center.	25	26 7 p.m., Energy & Environment Commission, Edina City Hall.
27	28 Memorial Day. City Hall closed.	29 7 p.m., Brooklyn Community Band, Edinborough Park.	30	31		

June 2018

About Town Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Key:  3-7 p.m., Farmers Market, Centennial Lakes Park.					1	2 10 a.m., Vehicle Day, Southdale Center Parking Lot.
3 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Nine Mile Creek Regional Trail grand opening, Fred Richards Park.	4	5 7 p.m., City Council, Edina City Hall.	6	7 Sunset, "Lego Ninjago" Movie, Centennial Lakes Park. 	8	9
10 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Parade of Boats, Centennial Lakes Park.	11 6:30 p.m., Community Health Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Fitness in the Park – high intensity interval training, Lewis Park.	12 7 p.m., Heritage Preservation Commission, Edina City Hall. 7 p.m., Parks & Recreation Commission, Edina City Hall.	13 7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.	14 7 p.m., Energy & Environment Commission, Edina City Hall. Sunset, "The Zoo Keeper's Wife" Movie, Centennial Lakes Park. 	15	16
17	18	19 7 p.m., City Council, Edina City Hall.	20	21 6 p.m., Transportation Commission, Edina City Hall. Sunset, "Peter Rabbit" Movie, Centennial Lakes Park. 	22	23
24	25	26 7 p.m., Human Rights & Relations Commission, Edina City Hall.	27 7 p.m., Planning Commission, Edina City Hall.	28 4:30 p.m., Arts & Culture Commission Edina Art Center. Sunset, "Swing Away" Movie, Centennial Lakes Park. 	29 Absentee voting opens at Edina City Hall.	30

Spring Calendar Highlights

Other Dates To Remember

- April 10** 7 p.m., Westwind Big Band, Edinborough Park.
- April 12** 7:30 a.m., Housing & Redevelopment Authority, Edina City Hall.
- April 12** 7 p.m., Edina High School Jazz Concert, Edinborough Park.
- April 26** 7:30 a.m., Housing & Redevelopment Authority, Edina City Hall.
- May 8** 7 p.m., South of the River Community Band, Edinborough Park.
- June 14** 7:30 a.m., Housing & Redevelopment Authority, Edina City Hall.
- June 21** 4-7 p.m., Edina Senior Center’s Ladies on the Town on the Longest Day Around, 50th & France.
- June 28** 7:30 a.m., Housing & Redevelopment Authority, Edina City Hall.
- June 28** 6 p.m., Fitness in the Park – Tai Chi, Yorktown Park.

Edina Garden Council Plant Sale

- What:** This popular plant sale sponsored by the Edina Garden Council (EGC) offers flowering annuals, perennials, herbs, vegetables, combination hanging baskets and containers. Plants are not treated with bee-toxic, neonicotinoid chemicals. Great deals are the many winter-hardened perennials EGC members bring from their gardens. The EGC is a nonprofit organization and proceeds from the sale are donated for Arneson Acres Park improvements, horticultural scholarships and gardening beautification projects for the community.
- When:** 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, May 11; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 12
- Where:** Arneson Acres Park Greenhouse, 4711 W. 70th St.
- Info:** edinagardencouncil.org

Taste of Edina

- What:** The Edina Chamber of Commerce will host its 23rd-annual Taste of Edina, along with event partner Edina Liquor. More than 70 wines will be available for Taste of Edina attendees to swirl and sip and 30 craft brews poured by local microbrewers at the event. Roughly 25 restaurants will serve up their local favorites, including sweet treats by local confectioners. New this year will be mini cocktails from local distilleries, along with a mixology showdown from Edina’s favorite bartenders. All beer and wine served at the event is on sale at Edina Liquor throughout May. Tickets cost \$40 at Edina Liquor stores and \$45 at TasteofEdina.com.
- When:** 4:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 3
- Where:** The Westin Edina Galleria, 3201 Galleria, Edina
- Info:** TasteofEdina.com

A Word From The Mayor

Why should you take the opportunity to shop at the Centennial Lakes Farmers Market this coming summer?

Access to fresh, locally grown foods, for starters. That may be one of the best reasons, but there are many more. Farmers markets have fruits and vegetables at the peak of their growing season. This means produce is at its freshest and tastes the best. The food is typically grown or prepared close to Edina, not thousands of miles away or in another country picked prematurely and shipped here by truck. Shopping at a farmers market also supports the area's farmers and keeps the money you spend on food closer to your neighborhood.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers these top reasons to shop at a farmers' market:

- You can help new and smaller farmers be successful and save farmland in our area.
- Fresh fruits and vegetables are full of antioxidants and phytonutrients.
- It's a great way to get your kids involved. Let them pick out something new to try, then they can help prepare a meal or snack.
- Supporting your local farmers market strengthens the community. Meet the area's farmers, learn about foods grown in and around Edina and catch up with friends and neighbors while stocking up on local goods.
- Farmers markets offer foods that align with the USDA MyPlate guidelines.
- Farmers often have recommendations for preparing their products.
- You can try a new fruit or vegetable, due to the varied products that are available.

We've had the Centennial Lakes Farmers Market in operation since 2010 when we had 14 market dates. In 2018, we will have 16 Thursday dates on which to enjoy

the market. With plenty of free parking, the Centennial Lakes Farmers Market will be open from 3 to 7 p.m. Thursdays June 14-Sept. 27.

Our very first market was held with 18 vendors; this season we will have a total of 30 vendors. A dozen of these vendors have been with us since 2010: Bee Happy Honey, Groveland Confections, Healthy Greens, I Got Cheese!, Kim's Garden, Pa Xe Chang, Peter's Pumpkins, Picka Farms, Ruhlands Strudel Haus, Svihel Vegetable Farm, Tollefson Family Pork and Untiedts Vegetable Farm. We are proud that some of our local vendors also donate to the local food shelf organized by VEAP, the largest food shelf in the South Metro. Last season, we facilitated the donation of almost 1,500 pounds of food to VEAP from our vendors in support of local hard working families.

The most significant distinction for our farmers market that sets it apart from others in the area is its setting at Centennial Lakes. We arguably have the most beautiful market in the state! Booths are set up on either side of the Hughes Pavilion, all with views of the lake. People can come to the market and take in all of the other park amenities, including observing our beautiful public art sculpture pieces, using a paddleboat, playing the putting course, walking around the lake listening to great classical music, enjoying relaxing on the swinging benches and capping the evening off with a free movie at the Maetzold Amphitheatre in the park after dark.

I hope to see you at the Centennial Lakes Farmers Market some Thursday afternoon this summer. Maybe we can enjoy a movie together, too!



James B. Hovland
Mayor

Wheaton Was Minnesota's First Black State Representative

By David Katz, Contributing Writer

On April 8, 1895, a young African American attorney named J. Francis Wheaton met up with two white colleagues in Saint Paul. The trio found their way to an unassuming restaurant on Fourth Street managed by one Louis McDonald. What they expected to be a relaxing night out quickly turned confrontational when the waitress served a starter course for the white gentlemen, but flatly refused to serve Wheaton. When approached, proprietor McDonald asserted his right to deny service based on race or any other factor he pleased.

The *Saint Paul Daily Globe* reported – in a tone somewhat at odds with the gravity of the situation – the dinner companions then “accompanied the hungry orator to a more congenial fodder factory.” Wheaton would not let the matter drop so easily, however, and filed suit in municipal court later that month. “While he had experienced this in his Southern home ... he expected more from” a comparatively progressive state like Minnesota, noted *The Globe*.

Indeed, despite McDonald’s protestations, the restaurateur stood on shaky legal ground. Nominally, at least, the State had an antidiscrimination law on the books dating back to 1885. Unfortunately for Wheaton and the area’s growing African American population, however, that earlier enactment contained significant limitations and loopholes – and was rarely, if ever enforced.

Ultimately, despite making a favorable impression on the presiding judge, Wheaton dropped the suit after speaking

his piece, for fear of professional blowback. Several years later, he would return to the matter and shore up this halfhearted antidiscrimination law: as a member of the Minnesota House of Representatives – the first man of his race to be elected to such a position.

Early Career And Landmark Legislation

John Francis (“Frank”) Wheaton’s meteoric and trailblazing career in Twin Cities politics surely came as no surprise to those who knew him in his native Hagerstown, Maryland. He came from similar stock. His father, Jacob Wheaton, held distinction as the first black man in his county to sit on a jury, and the first in the state to cast a ballot after the Fifteenth Amendment extended suffrage to African Americans.

Following in his father’s footsteps, Wheaton developed an early, active interest in government and civil rights. At the



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J. Frank Wheaton’s trailblazing career in the Twin Cities culminated in a term in the State House of Representatives. No other African American would serve in that post until 1973.

ripe age of 22, in a nod to his exceptional oratory skills, the state's Republican Party sent him to the 1892 Republican National Convention as the Maryland delegation's official alternate.

Republicans congregated that summer 1,000 miles away, in Minneapolis. Wheaton's trip evidently left an impression. After attending law school in Washington, D.C., and passing the bar in Maryland, the plucky lawyer picked up stakes and moved to Minnesota.

After focusing for a time on his budding private practice, the episode with Louis McDonald galvanized Wheaton to take a stand on behalf of the metro's small African American community. In early 1897, Wheaton and fellow

black attorney William Morris sketched out and lobbied tirelessly for what came to be known as the "Wheaton-Morris Amendment."

Wheaton's recommendations were adopted on April, 23, 1897. Codified as the far less catchy "Chapter 349 of the General Laws of 1897," the Wheaton-Morris Amendment guaranteed people of color "the full and equal enjoyment of any ... hotel, inn, tavern, restaurant ... or other place of public refreshment, amusement or instruction."



McCants Stewart, an acquaintance of J. Frank Wheaton, tested the worth of the Wheaton-Morris Amendment in a high-profile case.

Per the drafters' proposal, Chapter 349 laid out flexible penalty options: fines between \$25 and \$500, and/or imprisonment for anywhere between one month and one year. Civil rights historian Paul Nelson summed up the reasoning succinctly: "It was believed that white judges would be more inclined to rule justly when they knew penalties need not necessarily be heavy."

A watershed case transpired the next year. In March 1898, a Minneapolis restaurateur named John Flangstad refused service to McCants Stewart, a University of Minnesota law student and acquaintance of Wheaton. It took a mere 15 minutes for an all-white jury to find Flangstad guilty of Stewart's charges under the terms of the Wheaton-Morris Amendment.

'A Dark Horse That Won'

The City of Edina is currently represented in the State House of Representatives by two legislators elected by District 49, which also includes portions of Bloomington and Eden Prairie (and a sliver of Minnetonka). It was not always so. In the 1890s, the Village of Edina – which had formally incorporated less than a decade before – belonged to District 42D along with Richfield and a swath of Minneapolis extending to today's Lyndale neighborhood.

On the whole, District 42D did not seem a particularly likely place to elect Minnesota's very first State Representative. Barely 400 black voters resided in all of Minneapolis at that time – far fewer than neighboring Saint Paul – and only a handful called Edina home. (While it is not known definitively how many lived in

(continued on next page)

Edina at the time of the 1898 election cycle, according to Census data, fewer than 20 African American families resided here at any point between 1865 and 1930.)

Compared to other Minnesota communities, however, this area “boasted more overall diversity, ethnically and socioeconomically,” in the words of historian William D. Green. That translated to comparatively permissive attitudes and progressive values.

Wheaton claimed residency in south Minneapolis at this time. Spurred by a desire to protect and advance his civil rights legislation and “governed by the solicitations of his neighbors” – to excerpt a July 1898 announcement from the *South Minneapolis Telegram* – Wheaton put his name forward. After winning a three-way primary in July, the Republican Party gave the gifted orator its official blessing.



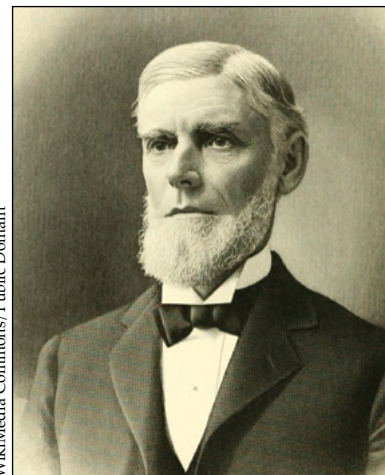
Saint Louis Park Historical Society

Saloons, such as this one in Rep. J. Frank Wheaton’s own District 42, brought the civil rights champion into conflict with the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Wheaton faced stiffer competition from Democratic challenger Albert Dollenmayer in the general election that fall. Dollenmayer, a colorful soldier-turned-journalist, offered a human interest appeal Wheaton had trouble matching (the color of his skin notwithstanding). In addition, he came from immigrant stock, which appealed to the masses of Scandinavian and German immigrants living in District 42D.

Even so, Wheaton pulled off the win, thanks in part to major newspaper endorsements and editorials from heavy-hitters like senator and mill magnate Charles Pillsbury.

If contemporary pundits projected a Republican win, they certainly did not expect Wheaton to see such an overwhelming show of support. He outpolled Dollenmayer in each and every ward and village in District 42D, including Edina. As a point for contrast, his Republican “running mate” John Goodspeed (as the district elected two representatives) edged out Dollenmayer for the second seat by a mere 212 votes.



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Justice William Mitchell, on behalf of the State’s Supreme Court, ruled in late 1898 that saloons could remain segregated.

On the morning of Nov. 11, the *South Minneapolis Telegram* ran a two-column photograph of Wheaton above the banner “A Dark Horse That Won.”

‘Paragon of Leadership’ In Black Minnesota

Wheaton left public office after just 13 months, but they were months that mattered. Indeed, historian William D. Green praises him as the “paragon of leadership” in black Minnesota on the cusp of the new century.

In his short time in office, Wheaton introduced an impressive 15 House bills touching on nearly as many topics – from juvenile justice to road improvements to railroad worker welfare and a flag desecration ban.

Fittingly, if perhaps unsurprisingly, Wheaton’s highest-profile achievement as representative came in the arena of civil rights. It pitted him against an unlikely opponent: the Minnesota Supreme Court.

(continued on Page 10)

Edina And Race In J. Frank Wheaton’s Day

At first pass, Edina’s overwhelming support for J. Frank Wheaton in the 1898 election may seem surprising. Only a handful of African American voters called the village home at the time. Moreover, the egalitarian episode runs counter to the area’s pre-1960s race narrative.



Edina Historical Society

Charles B. Yancey

Local historians often point to developer Samuel Thorpe’s establishment of the Country Club District in the 1920s as an illustrative case in point. Thorpe enforced strict covenants that ensured “no lot shall ever be

sold ... or rented to any person other than one of the Caucasian race.”

Fortunately for Wheaton, Thorpe’s segregationist mindset and discriminatory policies were decades away. In his day, Edina “was essentially colorblind,” in the words of former Edina Historical Society archivist Deborah Morse-Kahn.

African Americans even held noteworthy positions of leadership. One, a fruitgrower named Charles B. Yancey, was actually one of the “founding fathers” who officially organized the Village of Edina in 1888. Yancey later served with distinction as Edina’s Village Recorder and Justice of the Peace.

According to the *Minneapolis Times*, Wheaton once claimed “to love [my district] better than any place on earth.” It’s not hard to understand why.



Gov. John Lind signed HF No. 66: a J. Frank Wheaton-drafted bill that, at long last, guaranteed people of color equal access to all Minnesota eateries, hotels and public venues.

In spite of McCants Stewart's successful prosecution of John Flangstad under the Wheaton-Morris Amendment, black litigants experienced middling success securing restitution in the law's first year. In a particularly egregious case, a Duluth saloon operator named Robert Loomis denied an aged former slave named Edward T. Rhone entry to his establishment. Rhone promptly sued. A judge awarded him the new statutory minimum of \$25, reasoning that Wheaton's "other place of public refreshment" clause extended to saloons.

Loomis appealed the decision to the state Supreme Court, arguing liquor sales exempted saloons from Wheaton's catch-all phrase. In a split decision that shocked the freshman representative. and his constituents, the Court took a regressive stance.

Speaking for the body, Justice William Mitchell opined "entertainment of persons of different races in places where intoxicating drinks are sold not infrequently results in personal conflicts." In other words, for the safety of all, segregation in saloons and bars could continue unchecked.

In December 1898, less than a week after his inauguration celebration, Wheaton found himself back in the familiar fray.

In his efforts to close this last loophole, the State Representative encountered pushback from two blocs: a Democratic minority eager to please saloon owners (important community influencers), and the growing temperance movement (who opposed any and all "pro-alcohol" legislation). Nevertheless, Wheaton's trademark oratory and sterling personal reputation helped him win the day yet again.

On March 25, 1899, Gov. John Lind signed HF No. 66: a Wheaton-drafted bill that, at long last, guaranteed people of color equal access to all Minnesota eateries, hotels and public venues.

Never one to rest on his laurels, Wheaton parlayed this legislative success into an even grander crusade. He introduced a resolution instructing Minnesota's delegates in Washington to support motions preempting discriminatory state constitutions in South Carolina, Mississippi and Louisiana. That bid failed on technical grounds, but did not fail to move hearts and minds. Clearly, there were many civil rights battles yet to be fought.



Rep. J. Frank Wheaton's district included Edina, Richfield and the Lyndale neighborhood of Minneapolis.



In summer 1900, Minnesota's Republican Party sent Frank Wheaton to the National Convention in Philadelphia – a high honor.

Peculiar Postscripts

In summer 1900, Minnesota's Republican Party sent Frank Wheaton to the National Convention in Philadelphia – after an impassioned and unprecedented speech in which he nominated himself for the post. (If the *Minneapolis Journal* is to be believed, he achieved this coup by calling for a vote immediately after his oration, “before the delegates had time to pull up their lower jaws.”)

While that 1900 convention is noteworthy for propelling Theodore Roosevelt into national politics for the first time, it proved something of a swan song for Wheaton's political career. He declined to run for a second House term, and moved back East shortly thereafter.

His motivations for doing so will forever remain a mystery. Local historian Tim Brady explained why this is so in a 2004 article for *Minnesota Monthly*: “In Frank Wheaton's day and well beyond it, there simply weren't many archivists who saw the value in gathering the stuff of black history Today, you'd be hard pressed to find a single diary, memoir, collection of letters or cache of personal papers from any of them.” Wheaton's own voice in his story is sorely missed.

Wheaton reestablished his legal practice in New York City. Regrettably, he took his own life there in 1922, after a high-profile client jumped bail – leaving the hapless attorney holding a surety bond, which drove him deep into debt. Purportedly, nearly 20,000 mourners turned out for a funeral procession in his adoptive home of Harlem.

Here in Minnesota, hindsight proves Wheaton was truly a trailblazer ahead of his time. Amazingly, another African American would not fill a State House seat until 1973.

Background information for this piece came from materials maintained by the Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Legislative Reference Library and Edina Historical Society. Primary resources accessed are available through Minnesota's Digital Newspaper Hub and the Library of Congress “Chronicling America” newspaper archive.

Centennial Lakes Park Hosts Big Event With Little Boats

Submitted Photo



Roughly 175 model boats will be on display in Hughes Pavilion and at the event, including sailboats, working boats, military boats and fast electric boats.

By Lauren Siebenaler

Centennial Lakes Park is home to one of the biggest events of the year for the smallest boats in the area.

In its 27th year, the Edina Model Yacht Club's Parade of Boats will be held 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 10, at Centennial Lakes Park, 7499 France Ave. S. The event is free to attend.

"We have some pretty spectacular boats on display for the people who are interested," said the Model Yacht Club's Commodore, John Bertelsen. "The event clearly demonstrates the range of boats you can get into in terms of size and type. It's a wonderful exhibition for people interested in the hobby or in seeing the boats."

Roughly 175 boats will be on display in Hughes Pavilion and at the event. Sailboats, working boats, military boats and fast electrics are among the different kinds of boats to be displayed.

"It's a very popular event because it's very hands on. People can come in, get right up close to the boats and see them in various stages of construction," said Centennial Lakes Park General Manager Tom Shirley. "Boat club members are there to talk to them and answer any questions people might have on sailing and building. The tables will be filled with all the different boats inside Hughes Pavilion."

Besides the exhibition, there will be many activities for visitors. A popular Captain Jack Sparrow ("Pirates of the Caribbean") impersonator will be on hand. Boats with water shooters will perform a demonstration on the water. Adults and children will have the chance to vote on their favorite boat, and the favorite picks will be recognized at the end of the event.

Submitted Photo



The Parade of Boats at Centennial Lakes Park has entertained visitors for 26 years.

“Most of the club members make these boats themselves,” said Shirley, of the approximately 80-member club. “Some of them will do kits and some of them will literally build every little part on there. They’re very detailed. Some members build little steam engines and mill the steam engine parts themselves.”

Bertelsen says in the beginning, there were roughly 65 boats shown. While the number of boats has grown to take over the lake and Pavilion since 1992, he says there’s always been a diverse collection. The event even

features a “Minions” boat, which Bertelsen said is a big hit with the kids who love the movies.

The club does many races and regattas throughout the summer at Centennial Lakes Park, but this event is its largest. Its other big event of the year coincides with the Torchlight Concert in August.

For more information about the Parade of Boats event, visit www.emyc.org.

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Business Hours: Monday–Friday: 9am–6pm. Saturday: 9am–3pm.



AAA.com | 952-925-2244 | 7151 France Ave S.

It's Not Only Neighborly ... It's The Law

Tall Grass and Weeds Maintenance

The Law: *Edina City Code Section 30-118.* Turf grasses and weeds shall be regularly cut such that no individual plant shall exceed, at any time, 10 inches in height or length as measured from its base at the ground to the tip of each stalk, stem or blade. Noxious weeds as defined by the State Commissioner of Agriculture shall be eradicated.

What it Means: The City has standards for grass and weed management and maintenance. Weeds and grasses should not be taller than 10 inches. This includes boulevards, alleys, landscaped areas and developed and undeveloped land. Grass and weeds in drainage ponds, wetlands and similar waterways are exempt. Noxious weeds include Tree of Heaven, Garlic Mustard, Glossy Buckthorn and Multiflora Rose.

For more information, contact Horticulturist Tim Zimmerman at 952-826-1620. For a full list of Minnesota's noxious weeds, visit www.mda.state.mn.us.

Lawn Watering

The Law: *Edina City Code Sec. 28-261.* All properties with an address ending with an even digit may use City water for irrigation purposes on even-numbered dates only.

Sec. 28-262. All properties with an address ending with an odd digit may use City water for irrigation purposes on odd-numbered dates only.

Sec. 28-264. No property may use any water for irrigation purposes during the hours of 11 a.m. through 5 p.m. of any day.

Sec. 28-265. Upon written request and approval by the City Manager or his designee, the following properties are authorized to irrigate at times other than permitted above ... Newly sodded or grass seeded areas for a period of 14 days.

What it Means: If your property address ends in an odd number, you may water your lawn on odd-numbered days of the month. If your property address ends in an even number, water your lawn on even days of the month. If you have an area with new sod or seed, contact the Public Works Department at 952-826-0376 for permission to irrigate more than is usually permitted. Otherwise, please irrigate lawns during allotted dates and times.

For more information, contact Water Resources Coordinator Jessica Wilson at 952-826-0445.

Driveway Sealers

The Law: *Edina City Code Sec. 10-649.* No person shall apply any coal tar-based sealer to any driveway, parking lot or other surface within the City of Edina.

What it Means: Lakes, rivers, streams and other bodies of water are natural assets that enhance the environmental, recreational, cultural and economic resources and contribute to the general health and welfare of the

community. The use of sealers on asphalt driveways had been a common practice. However, scientific studies on the use of driveway sealers have demonstrated a relationship between stormwater runoff and certain health and environmental concerns.

Coal tar sealers contain Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), which have been identified as probable human carcinogens. PAHs from the sealants are released into the environment and become part of stormwater runoff. Once PAHs reach the ponds, lakes, and streams, they may pose a risk to aquatic life, birds and mammals. Also, PAHs are causing issues for municipalities in the disposal of stormwater pond sediment.

Asphalt-based sealers contain just a fraction of the amount of PAHs as coal tar-based sealants. Because here is a viable alternative on the market, the City of Edina has banned coal tar-based sealers.

For more information, contact Water Resources Coordinator Jessica Wilson at 952-826-0445.

— Compiled by Jake Omodt

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Edina Aquatic Center Still Makes A Splash After 60 Seasons

By Jake Omodt

When the Edina municipal pool first opened in 1958, it was a simple pool with no razzle-dazzle other than a diving board, a season pass for a family cost \$5 and on hot days during the inaugural season, some 4,000 people dipped their toes in the cool water.

Now, 60 years since its opening, the facility features a pirate theme, slides and diving boards; cost of a season pass starts around \$60 per person; and last season, almost 90,000 people came to the pool with 2,644 people attending on the busiest day.



File Photo

The Edina Municipal Pool opened in 1958 and serviced around 4,000 people a day from Edina and the surrounding cities.

The name has changed and so have the features, so how does the Aquatic Center keep guests coming back and splashing around?

“The City has invested in the facility year after year,” said General Manager Patty McGrath. “It’s an attraction people want to come to. The addition of new features over the years keeps people coming back.”

Most recently, the state-of-the-art facility upgraded its water playground and zero-depth pool in 2017, providing kids ages 8 and under a place to play. For the older kids, the Aquatic Center added The Lost Wave surf simulator in 2012. This season, the Aquatic Center’s waterslides will get a fresh coat of paint to bring more color to an already bright and vibrant place.

In the years when the Aquatic Center doesn’t add new physical upgrades like The Lost Wave and zero-depth pool, it often repairs or upgrades unseen items like the pool filters or heaters.

It’s safe to say this facility draws people of all ages.

“We have a little something for everybody, especially with the new play structure. We have the zip line, and diving boards and slides and surf simulator,” said McGrath. “When I say we have a little something for everyone, I really mean it – from tots to seniors.”

Along with the zero-depth pool and The Lost Wave, the Aquatic Center also has 1-meter and 3-meter high diving boards.

The Aquatic Center saw major additions in 2003 when it added the Shipwreck Express zip line, Pirate's Plunge body and tube slide and Oakwood Forest, a dry playground perfect for climbing or cooling off under the shady trees.

"I think the zero-depth play area is our most popular attraction," said Assistant Manager Dawn Beitel. "It's a huge deal. I think second to the zero-depth play area, the zip line is also super popular. It's a very unusual feature."



File Photo

The Edina Aquatic Center's most recent major upgrade came in 2017. The new pirate-themed zero-depth pool features brighter colors and a giant dump bucket. It is the perfect place for young kids to splash around.

"It's not just the kids using the zip line, either," said McGrath with a chuckle. "Parents, too. Sometimes, I think the parents don't realize how hard it is to hold on until the end, but it was a great addition."

"I think supporting the Aquatic Center all these years is something for Edina to be really proud of – supporting upgrades and changes and keeping it fresh and current."

Former City Council Member and President of the Edina Swim Club Ann Swenson has been going to the pool for almost 42 years. Swenson brought her kids to the pool and now her children bring their kids.

"The kids' pool area is so cool and it was just redone," said Swenson. "Amenities like that in a city are really important. If it's a mom or a dad taking them or a babysitter taking them, I think you need activities."

Both of Swenson's kids became very familiar with the Aquatic Center at a young age because of their participation in the Edina Swim Club, which practices in the 50-meter pool every morning during the swim season. Both of the Swenson children swam with the club from when they were 5 years old until they graduated high school.

Swenson is still a frequent visitor of the pool. "I take my grandkids there or meet them there. It's water, it's Minnesota," said Swenson. "On a beautiful day, its location on top of a hill, I think the setting is beautiful and as an amenity, it's wonderful to have for a city."

Though the Edina Municipal Pool has evolved into the Edina Aquatic Center, memories continue to be made.

(continued on next page)

"There are so many really great memories," said McGrath. "There's the first time a kid can do the standup FlowRider board and you see their face go 'Whoa!' or you see a kid go off the high dive for the first time and you just see the joy they have."

For Swenson, the memories come from her grandkids and seeing a new generation of faces dive through the water. "It's the people," said Swenson. "There's some new amenities that have been added, but every year,

it's new families that grow up and a new generation coming through."

The Aquatic Center opens for the season June 8, and season passes are available for purchase online now. Anniversary activities are planned throughout the summer for the 60th season.

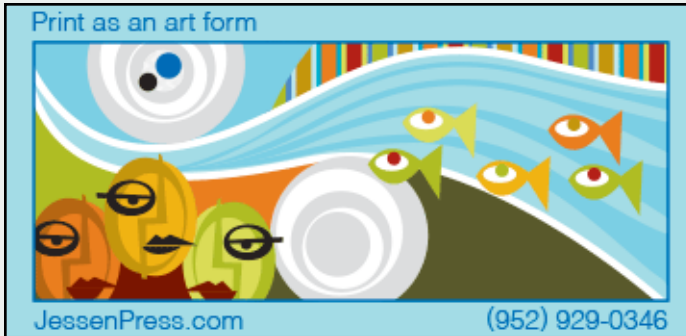
For more information on the Aquatic Center, visit EdinaAquaticCenter.com or stop by to see for yourself. The Edina Aquatic Center is located at 4300 W. 66th St.



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Residents Plan for Future of Southdale Area

By Debbie Townsend

Michael Schroeder would love to stroll from his home in the Cornelia Neighborhood to Centennial Lakes Park or the Southdale area.

But France Avenue might as well be the Great Wall of France, from a pedestrian's point of view.

"It's more difficult for me to get to Centennial Lakes than it is for a resident of Richfield," said Schroeder, co-chair of the Southdale Small Area Plan Working Group.

"Pedestrians, I think, are still the unexpected feature of France Avenue, and we want to change that."

A mix of residents and business interests make up the working group. Their task is to come up with a plan for the 1 square mile area, which is bounded by Minnesota Highway 62, Interstate Highway 494 and Xerxes and France avenues. Schroeder compared the Southdale area's size to the core of downtown Minneapolis.

The plan they develop over the course of this year will consider land use, density, transportation, housing, open space, economic competitiveness, resilience, health and other factors. If approved by the City Council, it would become part of the 2018 Comprehensive Plan Update.

"This plan is a guide for the future of that area," said Assistant City Planner Emily Bodeker, who is one of the staff liaisons to the working group. "It's a guide for development and redevelopment. This is what the Planning Commission and City Council will look to for guidance."

"It's essentially the high-level guide of what Southdale might look like in 20 or 30 years," Schroeder said.

The Southdale Area District Plan has been years in the making. Schroeder, a former Edina Planning Commissioner and professional planner, has been involved since the outset. The first phase was more than a dozen stakeholders developing ideas about how this effort might be guided. Phase II came up with guiding principles to use as the basis for Phase III, which gets into details and the actual writing of the plan.

Schroeder and Bodeker are quick to point out that this plan is being driven entirely by the working group, with help from consultants, who were picked by the group.

"It's the 12 of us who are the residents of Edina who are leading this process," Schroeder said. "We have consultants who are more or less our guides, but they aren't telling us what to do here."

Despite their diverse interests and views, the group members found they shared a desire for having similar kinds of experiences at Southdale, whether it was from a business aspect or that of a customer or nearby resident.

"There was an amazing amount of coherency between the things people we're saying," Schroeder said. "We realized we all had common goals."

Among them is transforming France Avenue into a friendly pedestrian experience, with features like landscaping, safe access and business doors that open onto the street.

“An evolution of France Avenue is a necessity,” Schroeder said. “We expect it to be inviting and even entrancing, and it’s got a long way to go to get there.

“If we could take the kind of richness of experience of Centennial Lakes and turn it into a street, France Avenue would be amazing.”

Several other uses make up the Southdale area, including Fairview Southdale Hospital, medical buildings, restaurants, retail, apartments, office buildings, parkland and housing. One challenge is to create transition zones between uses, Bodeker said, such as residential to retail, to create a seamless, welcoming environment that invites interaction and movement.

Other challenges are improving the 72nd Street corridor, balancing a destination spot with one that’s connected to neighborhoods, making it family friendly yet welcoming to drivers and varying the architecture.

Meeting every two weeks in 2018, the working group has a lot to examine, discuss and determine. Schroeder is confident the process will lead to greater things for the Southdale area.

“What we know is change is happening,” Schroeder said. “What we don’t know is what it will look like, and this will tell us.”

Follow the progress of the working group at EdinaMN.gov/smallareaplans.



Call 911 If You Can, Text If You Can't

By Dawn Wills

In an emergency, your first call is to 911, but now you have the ability to text 911 if needed.

"Imagine having to hide from an intruder in your bedroom closet or witnessing a domestic violence situation. Text-to-911 is a lifeline for people who would put themselves in harm's way if they called 911," said Jackie Mines, Director of the Department of Public Safety Emergency Communications Networks. "Speaking with a dispatcher is still the fastest way to receive help, so call if you can, text if you can't."

Text-to-911 also means it can be the first contact option for individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or those with speech impairments.

"Twenty percent of Minnesotans have some form of hearing loss. The communication barriers they experience are frightening when seconds matter most in an emergency," said Marie Koehler, Minnesota Department of Human Services Regional Manager for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. "Text-to-911 offers a solution to that overwhelming problem."

However, texting 911 is not meant as a total replacement for calling 911. There are delays receiving the text messages, and the texts can get out of order.

"We have seen up to three minutes before our message can be delivered," said Dispatch Supervisor Tony Martin. "Our dispatchers can only ask one question at a time and they

have to wait for a response. If we ask multiple questions at a time, what answers go with what question?"

One challenge with text messages is that location is not as precise as it can be with a voice call.

"With text-to-911, the information is not as accurate as a real 911 call," Martin explains. "It's not using an active, open cell line. It's just using your data connection to the cell tower. You're talking up to 600 to 1,000 meters radius and that's a long distance."

Another challenge is there is no language translation service for texts to 911 and a text or data plan is required to use it.

To text 911, enter the numbers 9-1-1 in the "To" field. Text your exact location and type a description of the emergency. Send the message. Promptly answer questions and follow instructions.

Use simple words and do not use abbreviations, emojis, pictures or slang. Do not text and drive.

Texting 911 with a false report is a crime just like it is for making a phony 911 call.

This statewide text-to-911 service started in December 2017. Emergency dispatchers have had extensive training and have tested this new system. Edina's Dispatch Center received 12 emergency text messages in the first couple of months it began the service.

However, dispatchers prefer calls so they can get cues from background noise and voice inflections.

“Texting 911 is a new function and you’re taking the dispatchers out of their element,” Martin said. “Dispatchers do a fantastic job, but now they need to focus on this a little bit more. I would still encourage people to call 911 and do not text unless they absolutely need to.”

For more information on Text-to-911, contact the Edina Police Department at 952-826-1610.


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Council Recognizes Human Rights Essay Contest Winners

By Dawn Wills

By opening their laptops and writing essays, teenagers Mythili Iyer and Eva Hadjiyanis helped open eyes about how discrimination affects girls and women in our country, state and community.

Iyer, a sophomore, and Hadjiyanis, a junior, were given top honors in the human rights essay contest sponsored by the Edina Human Rights & Relations Commission (HRRRC).

"I think many people are well aware of the fact that discrimination against women is becoming a critical issue in our community," said Human Rights & Relations Commissioner Ellen Kennedy. "One of the ways we thought we could raise awareness is by having an essay competition.

"We were very eager to see the responses and we were particularly heartened by the level of thought that went into the applications. We really came to a wonderful consensus regarding the two that we selected to acknowledge as our winners. Both candidates wrote very eloquent essays."

"When I first saw the [essay] flier, I was really intrigued by it," said Iyer. "I thought it would be a really good opportunity and it would gain awareness of this issue."

"I wouldn't have entered the contest if I didn't really like the topic," added Hadjiyanis.

It took about a week for both students to write their essays with both their parents helping with minor edits. The essay winners took different approaches to the topic of discrimination against women.

"The first thing I thought of was the lottery of life has such a big impact on people, and rules of society really dictate who people can become," said Hadjiyanis.

"The highlight in my essay is a lot about sexual violence and the hardship that women face because I thought that these are issues that need to be known," explained Iyer.



High school students Mythili Iyer and Eva Hadjiyanis received top honors in the City's first Human Rights Essay Contest.

Hadjiyanis feels these essays can have a bigger impact on people. "Writing an essay like this can maybe change the way one person thinks and that in turn can start a domino effect."

Both were excited to hear they won the Human Rights Essay Contest.

"I was kind of surprised," said Hadjiyanis. "I submitted it and I didn't think about it anymore."

"I was super shocked when I found out," Iyer said. "I couldn't believe it was real."

The City Council recognized the winners in December 2017 and listened as Hadjiyanis and Iyer read their essays aloud.

The goal of the Human Rights Essay Contest was to raise awareness about human rights challenges and opportunities among those who live, work and study in Edina.

"It's a way to say to our winners, 'You are the advocates, you are the activists,'" explained Kennedy. "We know going forward our winners are going to be great supporters not just for women and girls, but for everyone."

Winning essays can be found online at EdinaMN.gov/HumanRightsEssay.

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Climb Into Big Trucks At Public Works Open House

By Dawn Wills

Adults and kids alike can learn what it takes to keep Edina orderly and functional at an open house at the Public Works & Park Maintenance Facility 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 19.

The open house at 7450 Metro Blvd. will kick off national Public Works Week, May 20-26, and will follow the theme "The Power of Public Works."

Public Works employees will be on hand to educate and answer questions. The public is encouraged to tour the facility, handle some tools, eat some tasty snacks – and, of course, get behind the wheel of a fire truck, Bear Cat, tractor, bucket truck, cam truck, miller, roller, sprayer or any of the 20 pieces of equipment on display.

Other activities will include a scavenger hunt, seed planting and interactive demonstrations of the Public Works Department's brine and crosswalk systems, sign makers, virtual excavator and GPS/survey equipment.

"We're really excited for this year's Public Works Open House. It's going to be a fun family outing," said Dave Goergen, Public Works Coordinator. "I think the wide range of services that our department provides surprises not only the kids, but the adults as well."

The event is set up for Public Works, Park Maintenance and Engineering staffs to show what they do and to demonstrate some of the unique tools and technology used. On average, it takes about an hour total for visitors to stop by the stations and learn or play.



File Photo

Families can interact with some of the City's equipment at the Public Works Open House Saturday, May 19.

"This is really an interactive event," said Goergen. "It's not just a walk-by. We really want people to understand what we do."


Public Works hosts an open house every other year. In 2016, about 500 people attended the event.

"We have done this open house for a lot of years and it has grown," said Susan Waack, Public Works Administrative Assistant. "The more we can teach people what we do, the better and it's great to start with kids."

"Kids are always drawn to the big equipment and it's fun to see them climb up and realize how big this equipment really is," added Goergen.

There is no charge to attend the event, which will be held rain or shine.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 952-826-0376, or visit EdinaMN.gov/PublicWorks.




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K-9 Memorial Nears Completion

By Krystal Caron

After breaking ground on a K-9 Memorial outside Edina City Hall and the Police Department in November, the City will soon see the finished product. The memorial features a life-sized German Shepherd dog cast in bronze and mounted on a stone pedestal.

The memorial was built to recognize service dogs and the special role K-9s play in the Edina Police Department. It was an idea first proposed by the City of Edina's Public Art Edina working group and is finally coming to fruition with the support of the Edina Federated Women's Club, Edina Crime Prevention Fund and the Edina Community Foundation.



Submitted Illustration

Once installed, the memorial will feature a bronze sculpture and plaques commemorating Edina K-9s that have passed away.

The memorial features the bronze sculpture and memorial plaques on black granite for Edina K-9s that have died, including K-9s Jet, Kodiak, Diesel and Blade. The Police Department currently has two active K-9 teams: Officer Sean Young and K-9 Blitz and Officer Mike Bengston and K-9 Gryff. K-9 Ike retired last September after a medical condition was discovered.

"Edina's first K-9 was Jet in the 1970s. His handler moved to the Minneapolis department and when that happened, Jet went with him. Jet finished his years with the City of Minneapolis," explained City Council Member Mary Brindle, who also serves on the Edina Crime Prevention Fund's Board of Directors. After Jet left Edina, the program was discontinued until 2001.

Sgt. Kevin Rofidal was behind the revitalization of the Edina K-9 program and he is excited to see this long-held idea come to fruition.

"There is no better tribute than to have police K-9s memorialized for their selfless dedication to making the Edina community safer," said Rofidal, who worked alongside K-9 partner Kodiak for eight years. "Even in a city like Edina, it's amazing to see the small-town support."

The sculpture is 46 inches from nose to tail and was designed by Edina resident Michelle Recke. The process to build the sculpture began nearly two years ago with Recke working on the design in her home studio.

"I'm overly impressed with all the things service dogs do for people," said Recke, who has been sculpting in bronze since she was 16. "When they were first talking about

doing a K-9 memorial, I was all about it. I said ‘sign me up. I’ll do whatever you want!’”

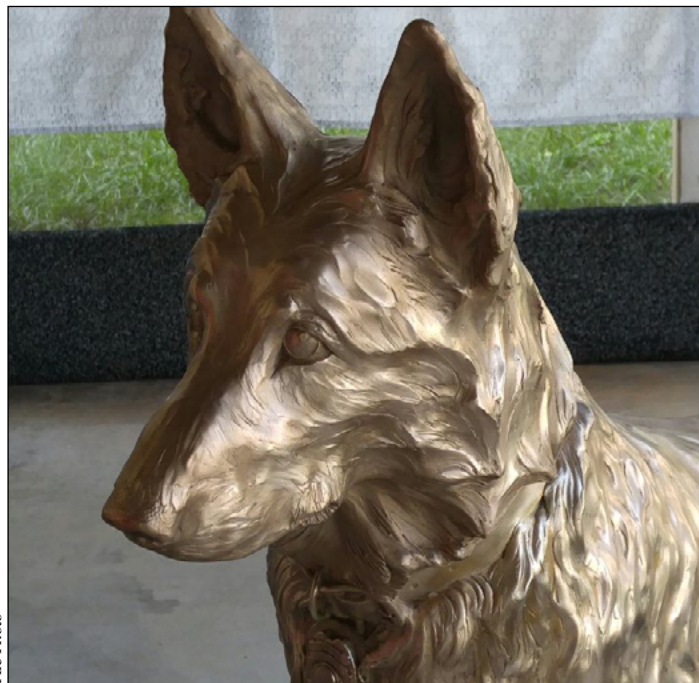
She was doggish in her goal of creating a sculpture that was as true to life as possible. After creating the carving in foam armature, Rencke covered it in clay and sent it to Casting Creations in Howard Lake, Minnesota. After several months, it was delivered back to her home where she put the finishing touches on through welding, grinding and applying patina.

The sculpture will be installed on the limestone sculpture base outside the Edina Police Department, 4801 W. 50th St. Elliot Design/Build will also soon complete the installation of the paver sidewalk, electrical connections and plaques; as well as planting a small garden surrounding the memorial.

The final installation date has not been set as the installation depends on the weather and ground temperatures. After installation, the City will host a public dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony 4 p.m. Tuesday, May 22.

“This is a community memorial and everyone is welcome to come and enjoy it and pay tribute to Edina’s K-9 partners,” said Brindle. “They do wonderful work. They save the lives of officers and go where humans cannot. It’s very important to realize the role that they play in keeping our officers safe in their jobs and keeping Edina safe.”

The final cost for the sculpture and landscaping was over \$25,000, all of which was raised through donations. The



File Photo

The K-9 Memorial's bronze sculpture was designed and created by Edina resident Michelle Recke. The sculpture, shown here prior to the final patina, is a life-size rendering of a German Shepherd service dog.

Edina Crime Prevention Fund is always seeking donations for its efforts supporting the Edina Police Department programs, including the K-9 Unit, rewards, bicycle patrol and new equipment.

To make a donation or learn more, visit EdinaCrimeFund.org.

Miles of New Trails Coming to Braemar Park

By Debbie Townsend

New trails will let people walk or ride bikes around all of Braemar Park – or in winter, cross-country ski through it – under plans approved by the City Council.

The Braemar Park Master Plan envisions nature restoration, additional amenities and improvements throughout the 500-acre park in southwest Edina that is home to Braemar Arena, Braemar Golf Course, Courtney Fields and other facilities. Among the highlights in the Master Plan, approved in January 2018:

Mountain biking – Nearly 6 miles of dedicated mountain biking trails with various options and obstacles to accommodate beginning to advanced riders.

Walking/Running – A 3-mile pedestrian loop around Braemar Golf Course. Trail types throughout the park would be a combination of paved, soft-surface and boardwalks.

Cross-country skiing – When snow covers Braemar Golf Course, about 5 miles of cross-country ski trails can be explored. While the trail layout in the Master Plan is only a suggestion, the cut trails likely will be similar to create the most pleasant course while minimizing impact on sensitive areas. No snow-making will be involved.

Braemar Golf Course – Redesigning the clubhouse access and turnaround areas to be more welcoming and accommodating; adding platform tennis and/or pickleball courts adjacent to the parking lot; adding a multi-use lawn game area.

Courtney Fields – Adding a new grandstand area and improving lighting around Field No. 1; installing a new playground.

Braemar Arena – Updating the exterior to better match the newer façade of Braemar Field; improving the parking lot design and add landscaping.

Native restoration – Removing some or all invasive species, especially buckthorn. Restoring wetlands, oak woodlands and savannahs; and diverse plant species.



Submitted Illustration

A roughly 3-mile pedestrian loop trail would encircle Braemar Golf Course, with the paths in yellow being soft surface and the red sections paved, with boardwalks on the south side as needed in wetlands areas.

The Master Plan addresses long-sought amenities. In two needs assessments for parks, along with surveys for the specific Braemar Park area, walking and mountain biking trails were among the most-desired additions to the City, noted Parks & Recreation Director Ann Kattreh.

Various groups, from residents to sports enthusiasts, provided input during the Master Plan process. Tim Sudeith of the Edina Mountain Biking Team was very involved, from helping interview consultant companies

to sharing the needs of mountain bikers. He called the trail plan “outstanding.”

“Braemar is the ideal setting for mountain bike trails with its oak savannah setting and large hills. Trails will weave around trees and incorporate natural features. The elevation is great, allowing for climbs and descents,” he said. “The trails are broken in multiple sections, giving riders the choice of how far to go, from small loops to bigger loops, to repeating loops for a longer ride.”

He also praised the trail design for accommodating beginning to experienced riders. “For example, if there’s an obstacle or challenging section of a trail, there will be an adjacent easier route,” he said.

Some of those mountain bikers are expected to take a break at the Braemar Golf Course Clubhouse, where they will be able to grab a snack, a meal or chat over drinks. The expanded amenities also make the Clubhouse a likely draw for walkers and those participating in racquet sports.

“It will bring a whole other dimension to the Clubhouse and make it not just a golf destination,” said Braemar Golf Course General Manager Joe Abood.

By examining the entire roughly 500 acres, a better plan could be developed for underused space and to unify the park, including improving access from surrounding neighborhoods and streets.

“I’m most excited to have had the opportunity to look at Braemar Park comprehensively,” Kattreh said. “We have

(continued on next page)



Submitted Illustration

Single-track mountain bike trails, highlighted on the east and west sides of the park, would connect via trails and boardwalks on the south side of Braemar Park. Vegetation would buffer the trails from Braemar Golf Course and bordering homes.

done a lot of work on planning, design and construction at the golf course, golf dome, arena complex and Courtney Fields, but this is the first time the entire park has been studied together.”

Exactly which parts of the Master Plan will come to life first remains to be determined. The City Council asked if the mountain biking trails could be among the first items, though Kattreh pointed out those would need to be done hand in hand with some environmental restoration and buckthorn removal and a boardwalk along the south edge of the property.

The Parks & Recreation Commission will spend part of 2018 prioritizing projects in the Master Plan. From that, budget estimates for the phases will be determined, and funding identified from those. The entire project, as envisioned in the Master Plan, is estimated at \$8.1 million.

To learn more about the project, visit EdinaMN.gov/BraemarParkMasterPlan or contact Kattreh at akattreh@EdinaMN.gov.

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Pedestrian Bridges To Be Replaced At Centennial Lakes Park

By Jake Omodt and Grace Kramer

After years of wedding photos, summertime walks and daily wear and tear, the two landmark steel bridges at Centennial Lakes Park will be replaced this fall with equally charming, but highly improved bridges.

The bridges, located at the north and south ends of the park, have been a staple of Centennial Lakes Park since its opening in 1991 and are known for being ideal spots for anything from prom photos to running steps.

The decision to replace the bridges came as their drawbacks and deterioration became more evident over time.



Submitted Rendering

Construction of the new bridges at Centennial Lakes Park is expected to start in September.

The biggest issue with the bridges was with 12 steps on each side, they were not wheelchair friendly and created issues for both pedestrians and the park's staff.

"We watch people with strollers or mobility issues struggle to get up the stairs because they're almost vertical," said Susan Faus, the City's Assistant Parks & Recreation Director. "They also have very narrow stairs."

In addition to park-goers, the stairs are a barrier for park maintenance. This results in additional staff and equipment time to get around the lake system from the central maintenance facility, according to the Centennial Lakes Pedestrian Bridge Concept Design Study completed by AECOM.

The new bridges will feature ADA-accessible ramps and be wide enough to accommodate park equipment such as mowers and the ice resurfacer.

"It will make life easier for the park patrons," said Tom Shirley, Centennial Lakes Park General Manager. "But it will also make it easier for us when it comes to snow removal in the winter and getting equipment and materials back and forth to the other side of the lake in the summer."

Beyond the accessibility, the bridges are physically in need of improvement.

"The bridges are still safe. They have been inspected, but they are rotting from the inside out. There's a lot of deterioration of the steel membrane," said Shirley. "At the same time, the concrete is chipping."

Originally, Shirley and the staff considered refurbishing the current bridges instead of replacing them. However, as the price increased and the issues with the bridges became more obvious, the planning for the new bridges began.

The Edina City Council approved the Centennial Lakes pedestrian bridge replacement project in November 2016 after almost a year of planning and negotiating. The City has finalized the bridge designs and plans to start construction in the fall.

"A lot of planning and thought has gone into this," said Faus. "This is a project we've wanted to complete for years now."

The new bridges, designed by Kimley-Horn, will integrate both steel and concrete into the structure to avoid problems the bridges have had in the past.

The bridges will include slip-resistant decks, widened walkways and LED lighting.

The park's staff hopes the new bridges will have the same visual impact on people as the current ones, but that even more people will be able to enjoy them.

"It's fun to see all the different pictures taken on the current bridges," said Shirley. "We want to make sure the new bridges look like something people are going to want to take pictures by and cross over and look at."

The new bridges will still be worthy of prom photos and other events. The façade of the bridges will be covered in stone with reddish steel accents similar to what the current bridges have.

"The whole concept looks like it will blend so nicely into the park and still look really neat and photogenic," said Shirley.

Shirley expects the project to start Sept. 10, the day after the Fall into the Arts Festival. According to the design study, the construction should take approximately 12 weeks and finish in early December.

"We think it's going to be a great enhancement to the park," said Faus.

For more information on the new bridges, visit CentennialLakesPark.com or contact Shirley at 952-833-9582 or tshirley@EdinaMN.gov.

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Street Reconstruction Starts Soon in Edina

By Jake Omodt

Street reconstruction will soon be underway in some Edina neighborhoods.

Most Edina residents find these reconstruction projects annoying, but they are necessary as the reconstruction provides residents with the service and infrastructure they expect. Streets need to be constantly maintained throughout their lifespan and most need to be reconstructed every 50 to 60 years because of weathering infrastructure.

Street reconstruction projects are based on pavement conditions. The City analyzes a quarter of the City's roads every year.

Engineers assign a Pavement Condition Index number between 0 and 100 for each street they evaluate. A road with a Pavement Condition Index number of 100 is in the best possible condition. The city also looks at pipe thickness, sewer backups, water main data, sidewalk gaps and more. With this data in hand, the City then ranks all the roads. When the Pavement Condition Index of a specific street falls below a certain level, it is put in the queue to be reconstructed.

The reconstruction projects are scheduled to start late in the spring and finish early in the fall. The timeline is not definite as the process is weather dependent. Reconstruction also depends slightly on the Minnesota Department of Transportation removing load restrictions on the roads. With the load restrictions removed,



File Photo

Street reconstruction can be a messy process, but is necessary to maintain high standards of living and keep underground infrastructure working.

engineers are able to bring in heavy equipment needed to complete the projects.

The City also evaluates the utilities underneath the roads during the reconstruction process. “Since we’re going to tear the road up, it gives us the opportunity to look at our utilities as well,” said Assistant City Engineer Carter Schulze. “We analyze the sanitary system, storm system and water main. We use this opportunity to repair those as well.”

City staff held open houses and neighborhood meetings to inform residents of the projects and plan on keeping them informed throughout the duration.

“We have a project page on our website,” said Engineering Technician Andrew Scipioni. “We also have a City Extra email list residents can sign up for to get weekly updates from the project manager.”

Streets not scheduled to be reconstructed this year may see some proactive maintenance from the City. The industry standard for reconstructing roads is 30 to 40 years, but with proactive maintenance, the City can extend the gap between reconstructions to roughly 50 to 60 years.

“Proactive maintenance includes sealcoats and milling overlays,” said Scipioni. “Every local agency wants their roads to have the longest lifespan they can possibly have.



File Photo

Edina residents can expect fresh, smooth roads for many years after reconstruction is finished in the fall.

If residents have any questions or concerns about the projects, we strongly encourage them to reach out to anybody on our staff. In some cases, it’s easier to address some of those concerns before the project starts.”

For more information on this year’s street reconstruction and sidewalk projects, visit EdinaMN.gov/Engineering. To sign up for City Extra emails, visit EdinaMN.gov/CityExtra.

(continued on next page)

Neighborhood Projects Close Up

1

Concord A and G

- Concord A and G is the area generally located on the northeast corner of Minnesota Highways 62 and 100. “Concord A” is south of Valley View Road and west of Concord Avenue. “Concord G” is north of Valley View, south of School Road and west of Concord.
- The project includes complete removal and replacement of the bituminous roadway surfaces, and spot repairs to the storm sewer, water main and sanitary sewers. New concrete curb and gutter will be installed.
- The project also includes a new concrete sidewalk on West 60th Street between School and Concord.

2

Chowen Park D

- “Chowen Park D” is located on 54th Street between Zenith Avenue and Xerxes Avenue.
- The project includes complete removal and replacement of the bituminous roadway surfaces, and spot repairs to the storm sewer, water main and sanitary sewers. New concrete curb and gutter will be installed.
- Both the City of Minneapolis and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District are contributing funds to portions of this project.

3

Country Club C

- “Country Club C” is located on the northeast corner of Wooddale Avenue and West 50th Street. Edina Court is located north of 50th Street, across from St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church.
- The project includes complete removal and replacement of the bituminous roadway surfaces, and spot repairs to the storm sewer, water main and sanitary sewers.

4

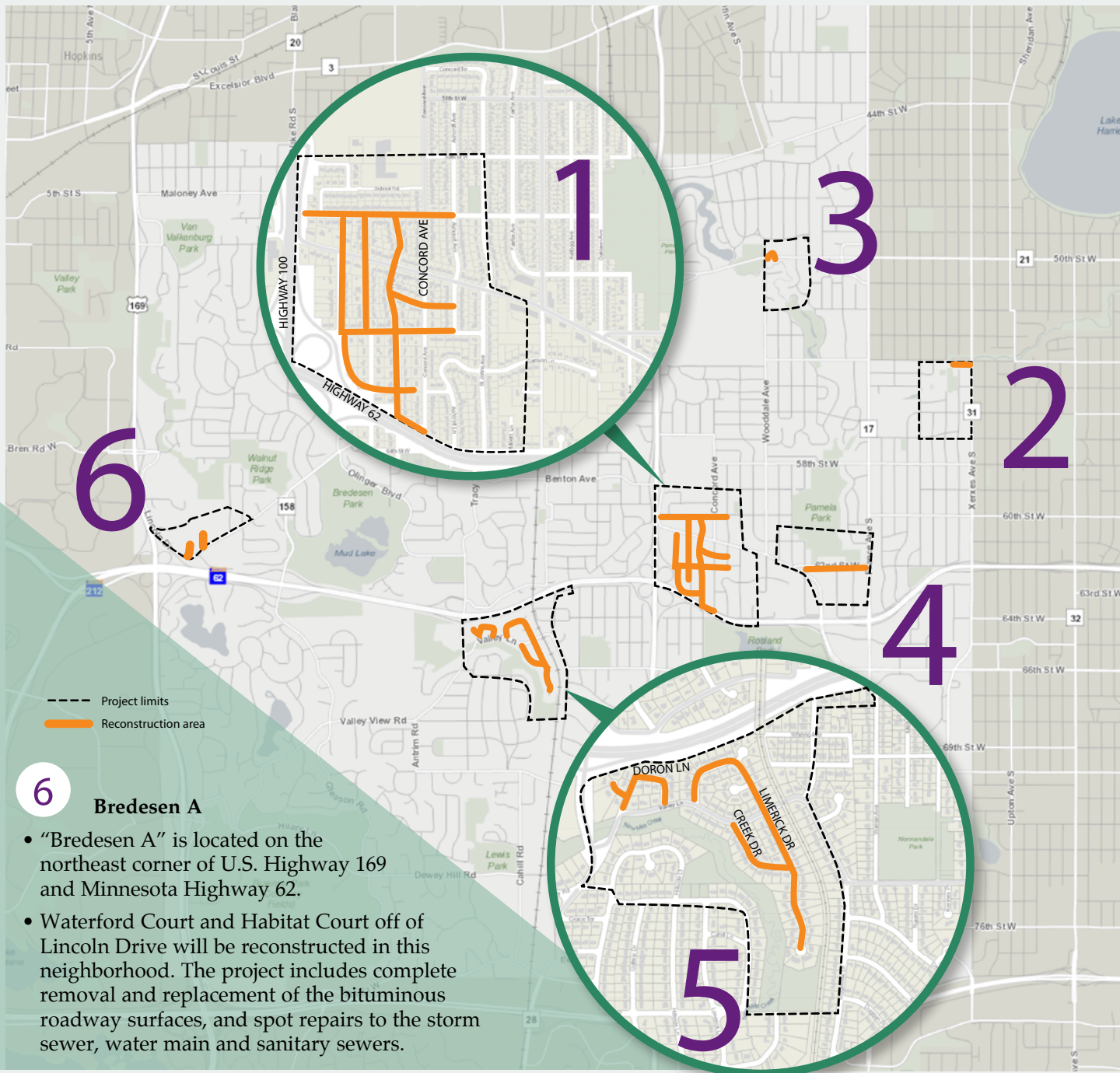
West 62nd Street from Valley View Road to France Avenue

- All new concrete curb and gutter will be installed.
- A new concrete sidewalk between Valley View Road and Brookview Avenue will be built, as well as a mixed-use bituminous trail between Brookside and France.

5

Normandale D

- Limerick Drive, Creek Drive, Doron Lane and Limerick Circle East will be reconstructed in the Normandale Neighborhood.
- The project includes complete removal and replacement of the bituminous roadway surfaces, and spot repairs to the storm sewer, water main and sanitary sewers. A mix of all new and spot repairs will be completed for curbs and gutters.



Planning Matters

City Approves Allowing Rooftop Dining

Rooftop dining may soon be coming to some restaurants in Edina.

The City Council in February approved an ordinance allowing rooftop dining, with certain restrictions, in commercial districts.

The decision overturns a ban in place since 2011, when the issue last went before City Council. A request from Life Time Fitness to include rooftop dining in its three-story premier club being built at Southdale Center prompted the policy review.

The conditions include limiting rooftop dining to between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. and ensuring lighting

doesn't disturb area residents or businesses. Noise generated from rooftop dining cannot violate the City's existing noise ordinance.

Each business seeking rooftop dining will need to go before the Planning Commission and City Council for official approval.

Life Time expects to open its 120,000-square-foot club in Spring 2019. It would need to get approval for rooftop dining before then. The building plans also call for an outdoor swimming pool and deck on the roof.

For more information on the Life Time Southdale club, including an animation of the new design, visit lifetime.life.



Life Time Fitness' interest in amenities for its new club being built at Southdale Center spurred a change in Edina allowing rooftop dining.



A park would cover a parking ramp to serve the Grandview area in a proposed development on the City's old Public Works site.

New Art Center, Public Plaza And Apartments Considered For Former Public Works Site

A new civic building, residential tower, artist loft affordable housing and a public plaza atop underground parking are part of a proposal for the old Edina Public Works garage site.

Frauenshuh Inc. has proposed to redevelop part of the 3.3-acre vacant site at 5146 Eden Ave. with a 17-story building for about 150 apartments or condominiums. The site also would have a three-story building for affordable housing dubbed "artist lofts" and underground parking for both buildings. Shared parking for the area would also be created.

For the other two-thirds of the property, owned by the Edina Housing & Redevelopment Authority, the plan includes a parking ramp with 430 stalls to serve the Grandview District. Atop it would be a public park. Another building would have 20,000 to 30,000 square feet of space to relocate the Edina Art Center and possibly an active adult center.

The concept would require a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to increase the height maximum from the current six stories to allow 17 stories. While the height is similar to Edina Towers or the Westin, the tallest current building in the Grandview area is the five-story Jerry's tower office building. The Frauenshuh concept also would require the vacant land be rezoned from Planned Industrial District to Planned Unit Development.

A formal application for the project is expected to be filed with the City by the end of April.

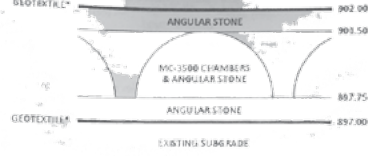
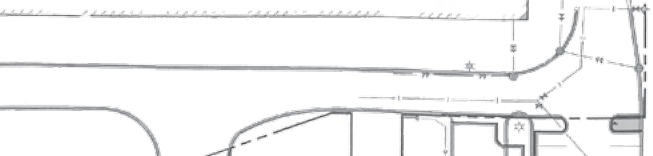
For more information, contact David Anderson, Senior Vice President of Frauenshuh, at david.anderson@frauenshuh.com or 952-829-3480.

Nolan Mains, The Avenue on France Get Grants

Two development projects will receive nearly \$3 million total in Livable Communities funding from the Metropolitan Council for innovation and best practices in linking jobs, housing and public space.

Nolan Mains, a project to improve an outdated portion of the 50th & France District, will receive \$1.44 million.

(continued on next page)



Construction is starting on 35,000 square feet of commercial space, 90 luxury apartments and 10 affordable apartments centered around an outdoor plaza and pedestrian space, with underground public parking. The project is related to the North Parking Ramp expansion. The grant money will go toward the outdoor public spaces in the project.

The Avenue on France, at 6600-6800 France Ave., will get \$1.3 million. At full build-out, the 22-acre site west of Southdale Center will include a new six-story medical building, six-story hotel, eight-story residential apartment building and two retail buildings. The grant money is

for the stormwater management, pathways, landscaping, lighting and public art.

The Met Council lauded the projects as high-quality, mixed-use developments with innovative features.

More information on Livable Communities grants is at metro council.org.

— Compiled by Debbie Townsend

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Normandale Center For Healing & Wholeness Serves Aging Edina Residents

By Krystal Caron

The Normandale Center for Healing & Wholeness focuses on providing volunteer support, respite, health education, and resource counseling/action planning for older adults in Edina wishing to age in place. Now, through the support of the City of Edina, they'll be able to offer even more support and resources than in the past.

Each year, the City of Edina's Human Services Task Force awards thousands of dollars to organizations that serve Edina residents. The Normandale Center was one of six organizations that received funding from the City for 2018. The Task Force gave \$91,505, awarding \$15,000 of it to The Normandale Center. Funding was also given to VEAP, Oasis for Youth, Beacon Interfaith, Cornerstone Advocacy Service and Senior Community Services.

"This funding and the opportunity to partner on a larger scale with the City of Edina is significant for us. This funding will allow us to serve a much larger number of families and their caregivers," said Executive Director Jennifer Monroe. "There aren't a lot of sources for funding for the work we do and studies show Edina has a large number of individuals who are over the age of 65 and the percentage is much higher in contrast to other cities. The need is great and growing as the population is growing."

"The Task Force aims to support organizations that offer support for our residents," said Project Coordinator MJ Lamon. "Supporting programs and agencies like this allows us to ensure our residents have resources like these available to them."

Edina's demographic is the oldest in the Twin Cities with almost 21 percent of Edina residents over age 65. The Normandale Center's hope is that assistance with healthy living, increased social connectedness and home-based support will relieve caregivers, enable seniors to remain in their homes and avoid costly crises.

"The core of what we offer, with home-based services and volunteer support in the home, is enabling individuals to remain independent longer than would have been possible without support. It's a significant thing for seniors to maintain independence and dignity to be able to stay in their own home and maintain their independence," said Monroe. "Many of the activities we offer are pretty low cost, but are really high impact for people. Having someone who is there so a caregiver could go out for a walk, go to a movie or just get a break and reduce their stress – even just once a week – makes a difference in the mental health of an individual."

The Normandale Center, located at 3100 Normandale Road, offers a wide range of help and support. Some of those services include volunteer-supported home-based services that allow respite for caregivers, help with shopping and friendly visits; caregiver workshops to provide those closest with the senior skills and techniques to help them care for themselves and their loved one; consultations to help families make the most of available services and resources; volunteer-supported "memory companions" who engage seniors with mild to moderate memory loss in meaningful activities; health education and exercise; access to loaned equipment such as



The Normandale Center offers a variety of services, including in-home volunteer visits, podiatry clinics and balance classes for seniors.

wheelchairs, walkers and shower benches; and a monthly podiatry clinic to offer inexpensive foot care.

A caregiver, who wished to remain anonymous, experienced first-hand the impact volunteer support can offer. As her father struggled with dementia, he became more restless and agitated, especially as he lost his independence. To help with these issues, The Normandale Center's Volunteer Respite Program was provided to the family to offer companionship to the senior and support to the caregivers.

"I feel like the volunteers gave my dad his dignity in his final months. He was a loving and gentle man who deserved to spend the precious time he had left in an environment that was peaceful and calm. There are no words to express what this gift meant to me and to my entire family," said the caregiver.

The Normandale Center's support is available to anyone over the age of 60 or to caregivers who are helping an older adult who lives in or around Edina. In 2017, they offered support to 565 seniors and their caregivers.

"Most people we serve have a connection to Edina – either the senior or caregiver has roots in Edina. We also serve Minneapolis and the southwest suburbs, but because we're local, most of the people we work with have a connection here," said Monroe.

The Normandale Center strives to offer low-cost or free programming. When program participants are unable to pay, The Normandale Center follows a sliding fee scale that goes to \$0, based on income. According to the Center, about 80 percent pay nothing to participate in their workshops or services. Funding from the City helps make this possible and covers about 15 percent of the expected costs for 2018 and 2019. The remaining 85 percent will be satisfied by donations, corporate contributions, grants and participant payments.

To donate to The Normandale Center visit www.NormandaleCenter.org/donations.

For City Council, Public Service Goes Far Beyond Meetings

By Debbie Townsend

The five people who make up the Edina City Council do a lot more than sit on the dais and make decisions the first and third Tuesdays every month.

They all serve the people of Edina by working with other boards, groups and organizations, in many cases spending a great deal of personal time to better their community.

Through his legal work, Mayor James Hovland was familiar with various transportation laws, so he was a natural fit for numerous committees and councils related to transportation. He most recently was named Vice Chair of the Standing Committee on Transportation and Communications for the United States Conference of Mayors. The eight-member committee works on policy and issues in the rapidly evolving world of transportation.

As its most basic, the committee helps the U.S. Conference of Mayors make suggestions to Congress on the needs of the nation's infrastructure. In recent years, the focus has been on emphasizing multimodal transportation, a term for a mix of transportation that can include trains, buses, cars, bicycles and pedestrians.

There are big questions to tackle. If transportation funding is based mostly on the gas tax, how do we ensure adequate money as more electric and hybrid vehicles use the roads? As we move toward autonomous vehicles, will we need more road capacity or less? What about planning for parking at places like 50th & France?

"The things I'm working on affect Edinans," Hovland said. "We have been more reactive from the state level. Now we will have a voice on the national level as well."

Kevin Staunton also has put his legal experience to work for the public good. He has worked regularly with the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) during his 21 years as City Attorney for the City of Excelsior. The League helps municipalities on city insurance, training for new and experienced elected officials, policy development and cutting-edge government issues. Staunton now serves on the League's Board of Directors.

"I'm really pleased to not only be able to give back to that organization, but also to have Edina be a part of shaping local government in Minnesota," Staunton said.

Among his roles are serving on the Amicus Committee, which writes friends of the court briefs on issues of importance to local governments. For instance, one case in front of the State Supreme Court examines the authority of local governments to charge developers an impact fee that pays for infrastructure such as roads to serve the new developments being built. Lower courts have said Minnesota law doesn't allow that; the LMC has written a brief arguing cities should be able to charge such fees to finance infrastructure construction and maintenance.

That may seem obscure, but if the State Supreme Court agrees, it would mean Edina taxpayers wouldn't necessarily be stuck paying for public work done

(continued on Page 54)

Key involvement Of Edina City Council Members

James Hovland

- Vice Chair, Standing Committee on Transportation and Communications, U.S. Conference of Mayors
- Chairman, Transportation Advisory Board to the Met Council
- Chairman, Municipal Legislative Commission



Bob Stewart

- Member, Policy Advisory Committee, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
- Board of Directors, Metro Cities



Kevin Staunton

- Advisory Council for Community Education Services
- Board of Directors, League of Minnesota Cities



Mike Fischer

- Member, First Tier Suburbs Council, National League of Cities
- Member, Economic Development Association of Minnesota



Mary Brindle

- Board Chair, Southdale YMCA
- At-large seat, Noise Oversight Committee, Metropolitan Airports Commission
- Board Chair, Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County



primarily to serve a new development or redevelopment in the City.

“I think it’s really exciting work,” Staunton said.

Mary Brindle works on transportation, airport noise and crime prevention outside of her regular City Council duties. But the position most dear to her is as Board Chair of the Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County (CAPHC).

“They are all important. They impact people’s lives,” Brindle said. “If you look at importance from that perspective, CAPHC rates right up there. Its purpose is to remove the barriers between what people are experiencing today and a life in which they have what they need. It’s making sure they know the resources and how to get to them.”

The organization helps provide emergency housing, energy assistance, food and other basic needs. The Board makes sure the organization is in compliance with all the standards required for the millions in funding it receives. Members also explore funding options and work with other groups and foundations to maximize the help they all can provide.

Brindle said it might surprise some Edina residents to learn their neighbors are among those who receive help from CAPHC. “Every socioeconomic sector can live here.”

Metro Cities might sound like some generic government group, but for Bob Stewart, some of its work is right in line with Edina’s pressing issues.

Stewart, who serves on the Metro Cities Board of Directors, points to the roads and the winter snowfall as an example. While he applauds municipalities, including Edina, for minimizing the amount of salt they use to keep roads safe yet protect water bodies, more needs to be done.

“The problem we continue to have is the groundwater and surface water keeps getting contaminated by salt,” he said.

Metro Cities is among those pushing for the State Legislature to limit liability for those using state-of-the-art salting procedures. Changing the liability would decrease salt use and increase the number of agencies and businesses that would improve their salting practices.

“I don’t think anybody appreciates how that would help our town,” Stewart said.

Despite all the time it takes to be on City Council and work on boards and with organizations, Stewart and the others welcome the challenge.

“It’s cool to be part of this council,” Stewart said. “We all participate, and everybody contributes so much.”

For more information on the Edina City Council, visit EdinaMN.gov.

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